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LB 75

as I think that the market would stand. The market is not working. It's not delivering an 85 octane gasoline into Nebraska. We hope to do that with this bill. It's not our purpose to get rid of an 87 octane base gasoline. We've talked about that with LB 1234 last year. We...personally, I would just as soon go that way and mandate, as they have in Minnesota, but I understand the political reality and I understand the driving public wanting to at least have the option of having an 87 octane without ethanol. I...this bill will allow that. I believe that in almost every station in the state we'll have an 87 octane with ethanol and an 87 octane without. We won't be overbuying octane, as we're doing now. I buy mid-grade gasoline, I have for the last 20 years, and I've bought more octane every time I file up than I need. Every vehicle that I've had did not need an 90 octane or an 89 octane fuel, but I went ahead and bought it because I like using a Nebraska product, I like the performance of it. But I didn't necessarily need that octane. I would still get the high quality, the cleaner burning and clean fuel systems that the ethanol blend would give me at an 87 blend level. That, I think, is what's going to happen across the whole state. We're going to increase the use of the Nebraska product by offering it, not mandating it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Connealy. On the Chambers amendment, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, something that I haven't heard a lot of yet, and Senator Chambers seems to continue to allude to the fact that the ethanol industry is somewhat of a bunch of crooks. I wonder what he thinks the petroleum industry is. You know, we've...we've talked last year a little bit about the MTBE problem. That's one of the reasons we developed ethanol, was to provide for a clean-burning fuel and do away with the carcinogens that are available with those non-clean-burning fuels that have...or the clean-burning fuels the petroleum industry is giving us that have MTBE in them. This...this is, to me, it's a health-related issue. We're going to...we're going to continue with the MTBE product, Senator Chambers, and let it continue to contaminate our soil and our water supply and